

Council

Minute extract from meeting held on 12 December 2012

Wellington Local Government Reform

David Benham, Chief Executive, and Paul Kos, Principal Advisor, spoke to the report.

Moved

(Cr Wilde/ Cr Glensor)

That the Council:

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the contents of the report.*
3. *Agrees that the main reason for any agreed reform in the arrangements for regional and local government in the greater Wellington region would be to reinforce the collective capacity and shared capability of all regional and territorial agencies to:*
 - a. *efficiently deliver all the statutory purposes of the Resource Management Act 1991, having particular regard to the wellbeings defined in that Act*
 - b. *protect the democratic basis for the mandatory payment of rates/taxes to support and enable the efficient delivery of regional and local services*
 - c. *facilitate collaborative strategic planning, regulation, evaluation and investment in services and activities likely to have an enduring impact on the social, economic, commercial, environmental, civic or cultural interests of current and future generations of citizens in this region, and their comparative wellbeing in New Zealand as a whole;*
4. *Agrees with the findings of the Panel's report that local government reform is required to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of local government in the Wellington region - particularly around leadership, infrastructure, resilience, integrated planning and economic development;*
5. *Agrees in principle that an integrated unitary authority model with either local boards or community boards would provide the best governance arrangements for the Wellington region;*
6. *Agrees to work with any other council in the region to develop an integrated unitary authority model for Wellington;*

7. *Agrees that the following are the basic principles to take into our negotiations:*
 - a. *Subsidiarity of functions*
 - b. *Regardless of the final internal boundaries, the governing body must have a minimum of two members from each area approximately equivalent to the current territorial areas in the western area and from Wairarapa.*
 - c. *Provision for either local boards or community boards;*
 - d. *The decisions regarding council controlled organisations be left to the new council to determine.*
8. *Notes Porirua City Council and Kapiti Coast District Council have already resolved to work with other Councils to develop a proposal, and that other Councils may resolve to do the same over the next few weeks;*
9. *Agrees to a joint working group with elected representatives and senior staff for the detailed development of an integrated unitary authority model;*
10. *Agrees the Chair, Deputy Chair and Councillor Co-Chair of Te Upoko Taiao – Natural Resource Management Committee represent the Council on the joint working group;*
11. *Agrees Māori representation in the proposal be determined in consultation with mana whenua iwi;*
12. *Agrees a draft proposed model will be agreed by Council for community engagement before being released;*
13. *Notes the Councils in the region have informally agreed that it would be optimal for all applications for local government reform in the Wellington region to be submitted to the Local Government Commission at about the same time;*
14. *Agrees an application to the Local Government Commission will need to be finalised in early 2013, with the exact timeline agreed by the Council following recommendations from the joint working group.*

The motion was decided part by part.

The motion was **CARRIED**.

Noted Councillor Aitken abstained from voting on part 5.

Councillor Bruce voted against parts 4, 5 and 6, and abstained from voting on parts 7(b), 7(c) and 9.

Councillors Greig and McPhee voted against parts 4, 5, 6, 7(b), 7(c), 7(d), 9 and 14.

Councillors Ponter and Swain voted against parts 4, 5, 6, 7(a), 7(b), 7(c), 7(d), 9 and 14.